



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

EDITORIALS.

—PUBLIC spirited citizens of Chicago have formed a corporation for the purpose of creating and sustaining a museum, which shall furnish to the public of the city an educational exhibition. It is an opportune time for such a project, as there is much in the Columbian Exhibition that can be obtained, which would serve as a nucleus round which a great museum may be collected. It is proposed that the museum shall be located near to Jackson Park and the University, and for the present the California building, one of the largest of this class in the park, is to be utilized for this purpose. The incorporators have made an excellent beginning in appointing Prof. F. W. Putnam the managing director. Thus a scientific stamp is given to the enterprise at the outset, and its future value as an educational medium is secured. It is expected that Professor Putnam will organize the museum into departments, and will place over each a competent head, who will make the institution a medium of original research as well as of exhibition, as is the case with all the great museums of the world. It will thus become useful, not only to the general public, but to the University and to the Academy of Sciences. The corps of scientific experts connected with the museum and the University, would revive the Academy of Sciences, which has been dormant of latter times. This would give it a position in the country second to none west of the Allegheny Mountains, instead of being, as in late years, less productive than the societies of Cincinnati and St. Louis. If Chicago is the city she claims to be, she will do this, and more. She will have an Academy of Sciences which consists exclusively of scientific men. Only such a membership can give an Academy its proper position in the world, and prevent the organization from being a travesty of what it ought to be and might be.

—THE Postmaster General of the last administration, Mr. Wanamaker, proposed, it is said, to change the names of the post-offices throughout the country which are duplicates of those previously given to older offices. Perhaps Mr. Wanamaker found the task too onerous; at all events it has never been accomplished. It is hardly likely the present administration will undertake it, as it would savor too much of "paternalism" for democrats to tolerate, but as duplicate names have become an annoying evil, a future administration may make the needed

reform. Nearly all the names of towns with which we are familiar in American geography have now been duplicated, generally several times. New cases appear in the papers continually. We recently noticed a half dozen or more stations on a branch of the Santa Fe R. R. system, whose names have been taken in toto from the time-table of the Pennsylvania R. R., west of Philadelphia. Many or all of these places are or will be post-offices. As the Santa Fe system is controlled in Boston we wonder at this piece of plagiarism (!), for Boston has never been noted for lack of originality. If this is possible from Boston, the stupidity of the rest of the country in the matter of names is easily understood! Nevertheless, Philadelphians (ignoring Kensington and Southwark), may protest in the names of Passyunk, Manayunk and Moyamensing, against such incapacity. There can be only one Chicago, one New York, one Philadelphia, etc., and those communities that duplicate these names simply efface themselves, as the French say. There is nothing easier than to find or invent new names, hence it is incomprehensible why American people should wish to call their homes Paris, Mexico or Berlin. In any case, if geography is to be taught in our public schools, or letters reach their destination, this maze of confusion must be corrected.

—THE scheme of Mr. J. C. Bay to publish a yearly bibliography of American botany deserves every encouragement. He proposes an absolutely complete list of all papers upon American botany, accompanied by short abstracts of each, the whole to be published six months after the close of the year. We understand that a publisher has been found who is willing to undertake the publication, but the prompt issue of the volumes will doubtless prove a matter of some difficulty. Thus, of Just's Botanical "*Jahresbericht*," the volume for 1890 is completed in 1893, the same is true for the Zoological summary of the "*Archiv. für Naturgeschichte*," while the delay in the appearance of the English "*Zoological Record*" and the Naples *Jahresbericht*, though not quite so bad, is very aggravating to those who desire to keep fully abreast with the times.

—THE question is often asked, Why do the American zoologists so universally neglect the American Association for the Advancement of Science? For many years scarcely an American publishing zoologist has been present at the meeting while the few papers on zoological subjects are in striking contrast to the interest shown in the sister science of botany. The reasons for this state of affairs are not readily stated.

Possibly most potent of all is the feeling that the association is far from being a representative of American science, and that it has degenerated into an annual junketing party. It is certain that the interests of science have been often sacrificed to excursions which interrupt the sessions, and which should be postponed to their close. Then, too, criticisms are often heard that it is run as a close corporation, that nominating boards are packed in order that certain persons may be put in office and that the expenses of the Association are far greater than they should be for the results achieved. There is, too, an inside history which can not be detailed which would explain a large portion of the indifference displayed. Before the Association can regain its influence it must undergo a complete transformation in its management and methods of administration. It must also present features which will attract the better workers of the country.